



OFFICE OF THE
MASTER OF ARTS IN
LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM

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FAX COVER LETTER

TO: Prof. Tony Seraphin
fax #: 11511

FROM: Dr. Maxine Colm

DATE: 3-19-10

FAX: 302-831-4461

COMMENTS: attached is Dr. Maxine Colm's instructions.

Total number of pages: 5 (including cover sheet).

UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE FORMS

Academic Program Approval

This form is a routing document for the approval of new and revised academic programs. Proposing department should complete this form. For more information, call the Faculty Senate Office at 831-2921.

Submitted by: Maxine Colm, Director and Marcia Watson, Associate Director
Phone number x 6028

Department: Associate in Arts Program
E-mail address colm@udel.edu and mww@udel.edu

Date: October 28, 2009

Action: add new undergraduate academic policy
(Example: add major/minor/concentration, delete major/minor/concentration, revise major/minor/concentration, academic unit name change, request for permanent status, policy change, etc.)

Effective term 10F
(use format 04E, 05W)

Current degree: All UD Associate Degrees: Associate in Arts (AA) and Associate in Science (AS)
(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed change leads to the degree of: no change
(Example: BA, BACH, BACJ, HBA, EDD, MA, MBA, etc.)

Proposed name: na
Proposed new name for revised or new major / minor / concentration / academic unit
(if applicable)

Revising or Deleting:

Undergraduate major / Concentration: na
(Example: Applied Music ~ Instrumental degree BMAS)

Undergraduate minor: na
(Example: African Studies, Business Administration, English, Leadership, etc.)

Graduate Program Policy statement change: na
(Must attach your Graduate Program Policy Statement)

Graduate Program of Study: na
(Example: Animal Sciences: MS Animal Sciences: PHD Economics: MA Economics: PHD)

Graduate minor / concentration: na

Note: all graduate studies proposals must include an electronic copy of the Graduate Program Policy Document, highlighting the changes made to the original policy document.

List new courses required for the new or revised curriculum. How do they support the overall program objectives of the major/minor/concentrations?
(Be aware that approval of the curriculum is dependent upon these courses successfully passing through the Course Challenge list. If there are no new courses enter "None")

None

Explain, when appropriate, how this new/revised curriculum supports the 10 goals of undergraduate education: <http://www.uga.udel.edu/gened/>

This proposal is not a revision to a curriculum. It is a proposal to add a new undergraduate academic policy relating to special recognition at the time of Associate Degree conferral, for top students in the graduating class. The intent of the proposed policy is to reward students who excel in their studies for the Associate Degree.

Identify other units affected by the proposed changes:

(Attach permission from the affected units. If no other unit is affected, enter "None")

All UD Associate degrees would be affected. Associate degrees are currently conferred by the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Education and Public Policy. This proposal originated with the Associate in Arts program within the College of Arts and Sciences. Letters of support from the Colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Education and Public Policy will be requested if this proposal is approved by the College of Arts and Sciences, before it is sent to the University Faculty Senate.

Describe the rationale for the proposed program change(s):

(Explain your reasons for creating, revising, or deleting the curriculum or program.)

Under current UD policy, the top bachelor degree recipients in each graduating class earn academic recognition at graduation. Such honors are determined by a combination of cumulative GPA and rank in class, as follows:

STRIVE FOR ACADEMIC HONORS AT GRADUATION

The top students in each graduating class receive special recognition in the form of academic honors. The following rules for honors apply:

- **Summa Cum Laude.** The top 1 percent of the students of each undergraduate college's graduating class will receive the degree Summa Cum Laude, providing that each student obtains a minimum overall index of 3.75 at the end of his or her course of study.
- **Magna Cum Laude.** The next 4 percent of the students of each undergraduate college's graduating class will receive the degree Magna Cum Laude, providing that each student obtains a minimum overall index of 3.5 at the end of his or her course of study.
- **Cum Laude.** The next highest 8 percent of the students of each undergraduate college's graduating class will receive the degree Cum Laude providing that each student obtains a minimum overall index of 3.25 at the end of his or her course of study.

(Source: p. 68, 2008-2009 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog)

There is no analogous system of recognition for students who earn Associate degrees from the University. The Associate in Arts degree has been available at the University since the 1950s, but until 2004, only a few Associate degrees were conferred every year. That changed in 2004, when the Associate in Arts Program was created to administer the Associate degree program. Since 2004, 640

Associate In Arts degrees have been conferred by the College of Arts and Sciences, and many students have excelled in their studios and earned outstanding grades, but there is no existing mechanism to recognize the top Associate degree recipients in each graduating class. We propose to ~~extend~~ *extend the same* system of academic recognition for associate degree recipients, ~~analogous to the~~ *as exists* ~~existing system~~ for bachelor's degree candidates, as follows:

- ~~With Extraordinary Merit. The top 1 percent of the students of each Associate in Arts or Associate in Science graduating class will receive the Associate degree With Extraordinary Merit, providing that each student obtains a minimum overall index of 3.75 at the time of Associate degree conferral.~~
- ~~With High Merit. The next 4 percent of the students of each Associate in Arts or Associate in Science graduating class will receive the Associate degree With High Merit, providing that each student obtains a minimum overall index of 3.5 at the time of Associate degree conferral.~~
- ~~With Merit. The next highest 8 percent of the students of each Associate in Arts or Associate in Science graduating class will receive the Associate degree With Merit, providing that each student obtains a minimum overall index of 3.25 at the time of Associate degree conferral.~~

DELETE

To provide some perspective on the number of associate degree recipients who would have qualified to date for the proposed honors, the following table presents cumulative statistics of the top students among a total of 640 Associate in Arts degrees conferred by the College of Arts and Sciences since 2004:

Cumulative GPA	Number of Students	% of Total Conferred
3.750 - 4.000	25	3.9%
3.500 - 3.749	38	5.9%
3.250 - 3.499	50	7.8%
Total	113	17.7%

Note that the percentage of Associate in Arts degree recipients who fall into each GPA category is greater than the percentage cap on those who would be awarded the merit designations. In other words, under the proposed percentage criteria for each rank, not all of the Associate degree recipients who have earned the minimum GPA would qualify for the graduation honors designations. Only the top 13% (1% + 4% + 8%) would qualify, as long as they had the minimum GPA. This is analogous to the recognition of top students for the bachelor's degree.

Program Requirements:

(Show the new or revised curriculum as it should appear in the Course Catalog. If this is a revision, be sure to indicate the changes being made to the current curriculum and include a side-by-side comparison of the credit distribution before and after the proposed change.)

na

ROUTING AND AUTHORIZATION: (Please do not remove supporting documentation.)

Department Chairperson MAYNE COLM Date 2/19/10
Dean of College _____ Date _____
Chairperson, College Curriculum Committee _____ Date _____
Chairperson, Senate Com. on UG or GR Studies _____ Date _____
Chairperson, Senate Coordinating Com. _____ Date _____
Secretary, Faculty Senate _____ Date _____
Date of Senate Resolution _____ Date to be Effective _____
Registrar _____ Program Code _____ Date _____
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs & International Programs _____ Date _____
Provost _____ Date _____
Board of Trustees Notification _____ Date _____

Revised 02/09/2009 /kha